question is put except with the special leave of the Chair. The matter is already dealt with here; so that no member is allowed to rise in his place for putting a supplementary question. Rulings from the Chair 1934 say:

> "Another point that came up for consideration during the last meeting was the convention established in this House by which no member is allowed to rise in his place more than once for putting supplementary questions. It seems to me that the fair and correct rule, having regard to the interest of all the members of the House, is that one member should ordinarily be given only one opportunity to put his series of supplementary questions. It should be remembered that a supplementary question is generally intended to clear up what might have seemed obscure in the answer given to the original question, but not on answers given in reply to supplementary questions themselves. I do not therefore propose to interfere at present with the convention observed in this House.

Then later on the same question arose and I gave this ruling: It is in 1934:

> "The honourable members must kindly remember that so far as supplementary questions are concerned, each person is technically entitled to put questions only once when his turn comes. There has been a relaxation of that rule. What has happened here is that the same person asks many questions one after another, so much so, I am afraid the lack of consideration for the rights of other members has made the question hour less effective. If the same honourable member were to ask many questions, to that extent, he will be subtracting from the time allowed to the other members. Hereafter, whenever questions of general interest come up, I propose to allow each member, who is interested, to put two or three questions during his turn. If necessary, having regard to the public interest aroused, I will give the honourable members a little more time."

I propose to observe that ruling because practically all supplementary questions are put by a few members for the purpose of cross examining the members on the Treasury Benches which they are not entitled to do.

Depot Officer, Parur.

163. * MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received complaints against the Depot Officer, Parur; and

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under investigation.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: May I know the nature of the investigtaion?

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MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It is under investigation by the Division Peishkar, Kottayam.

MR. K. BALAKRISHNA MENON (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): May I know whether this question has not arisen this time last year on the floor of the House?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I do not remember, Sir.

Price of rice.

164. ❋ MR. P. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the price per beg at which the Madras Government sell rice;

(*b*) the price per bag in Travancore; and

(*c*) if there is any disparity, the reason for the same?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) According to information received from the Government of Madras, it is seen that in the Madras City, the wholesale price of rice, second sort, is Rs. 18-10-1 per bag of 2 maunds while in the other Districts, the price ranges from Rs. 17-4-6 to Rs. 22 per bag.

(*b*) Rs. 26-8-0 per bag of 160 lbs. net.

(*c*) There is disparity. The reason is that while the main bulk of rice sold in Madras is produced in the Province itself, the rice sold here is purchased from places like Sind, Punjab and Central Provinces, where the price to be paid for the grain and the charges incurred for transport to the State are comparatively high.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know the price of the Sind, the Punjab and the Central Provinces rice per bag?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The price of rice in the Punjab is Rs. 25-1-4 per maund and in Central Provinces Rs. 13-2-0 per maund. In sind it is Rs. 12. to Rs. 12 As. 8.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: What is the shipping freight and the railway freight from the Punjab to Travancore, per maund?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The shipping freight will roughly come to Rs. 8 from Karachi to Cochin. I cannot say about the various railway freights.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. We are getting it by shipment mainly from Karachi to Cochin.

MR. P. M. VERGHESE: May I know why it is stated as two maunds in one case and as 162 lbs in the other? Is the quantity the same? In other words, I wish to know whether the two maunds represent 162 lbs?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No. It can be easily calculated.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: What is the price per bag in Cochin?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I do not know exactly.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: May I know the weight in maunds per bag of rice.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Two maunds each of 82 2/7 pounds.

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